

GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT SECURITY PROGRAM

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
April 2003 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Prepared by: John Sibold, Director, Aviation Division

Approved by: Paula J. Hammond, Chief of Staff

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this briefing is to update the Commission on the implementation of the general aviation security program as established by Commission Resolution 635.

BACKGROUND:

On July 17, 2002, the Transportation Commission adopted Resolution 635 that called for the creation of a general aviation security task force under the direction of the Aviation Division to develop best security practices for general aviation airports. The task force, under the leadership of Director John Sibold was made up of airports, pilot representatives as well as state and federal agencies, including TSA. The task force identified key issue areas at general aviation airports and the following summarizes the department's guidelines.

WSDOT Aviation strongly recommends general aviation airports create security plans for their facilities and is offering assistance to airports with the creation of security plans. The guidelines suggest airport sponsors inventory the security needs at the airport, develop a voluntary security plan followed by implementation of the plans.

Security Inventory

It is important for airport sponsors to understand where vulnerabilities exist at general aviation airports. An inventory, which is not labor intensive, provides an assessment of perimeter access, availability of lighting and signage, locking of hangars, fences and gates limiting access, display of security warning posters and emergency contact information. As a way to offset expenses, WSDOT Aviation is coordinating with the Civil Air Patrol to provide airports with CAP volunteers as a resource option to help with the inventory of security needs. WSDOT Aviation will meet with airports during the month of April to learn about individual airport resource needs and answer questions about the role of the security plan.

Security Planning

The security plan should identify tenant pilots based at the airport, property boundaries, current security systems in place, hazardous materials stored on the site, assessment of the threat to the local community and to national resources in the region, local law

enforcement and emergency response agencies, and a list of security improvement projects needed to implement the plan. The goal of the program is for the security plans that enable partnerships with law enforcement and foster collaboration with airport customers. Key elements might include holding a tenant meeting to address security needs and raise awareness of good security practices; meeting with local law enforcement to coordinate respective emergency plans; as well as conducting audits and periodic reviews of the security plan to maintain its effectiveness.

WSDOT Aviation will provide grant assistance for modest security projects such as increased signage and lighting for air-side and ground-side access points, gates and fencing, security cameras, pay phone installation, alarm systems and access control points, visitors log or employee identification credentials.

Program Implementation

Director John Sibold and Stan Allison, Manager, Aviation Operations will rollout the WSDOT General Aviation Security Guidelines at the Community Airports Association meeting on April 5, 2003 in Ellensburg.

April - May

Distribution of guidelines to all GA airports.

Meetings with sponsors on inventory and security plan development.

May – June

Sponsors and/or CAP conduct security inventory at airports.

June – July

Sponsors develop security plans for their airports.

July

Grant applications due to WSDOT for eligible security projects.

RECOMMENDATION:

None needed.

For more information, contact John Sibold, Aviation Director in Arlington at 360-651-6301.